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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,511	03/01/2002	Veijo Pulkkinen	0207US-Euroelektro	4052

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SALTAMAR INNOVATIONS
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EXAMINER	
YE, LIN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2615	

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/087,511	PULKKINEN, VEIJO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lin Ye	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 November 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) *1-3,6-8 and 10-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,6-8 and 10-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *01 March 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The copy information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 11/4/05 which corresponding to the IDS submitted on 3/1/02 has being considered by the examiner.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 11/04/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive as to claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-23.

For claim 1, the applicant argues that contrary to Matsumoto (U.S. patent 6,172,605), the claimed invention does not need separate sensors and require sending the video image, but rather the result of the task. The result may be a single value or a value set (See Applicant's Remarks, page 7, lines 5-11).

This argument is not clear since this is not being clearly claimed in claim 1. The language in claim 1 never states **what exactly reason** to cause the programmable logic controller adapted **to form** a query message. The claim 1 is written broadly and only required the query message comprising a code of a desired image-processing task and parameter values need for performing the image-processing task. The Matsumoto reference discloses in Figures 1 and 6, a process control system comprising: programmable logic controller (monitoring central unit 20 including a communication control 21 is considered as programmable logic controller which having various control functions formed or configured as either software or hardware as shown in Figure 1, See Col. 4, lines 50-59) including a

program for controlling operation of a process (e.g., software for controlling various means and functions, see Col. 8, lines 63-65), said program being adapted to form a query message comprising a code of a desired image-processing task and parameter values needed for performing the image-processing task (e.g., control information as a query message for encoding image as image-processing task, such as changes the resolution of image, number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 16-30).

The applicant argues that the resolution or frame rate changes offered by Matsumoto require manual intervention, and Matsumoto is silent regarding automatic parameter setting by the system (See Applicant's Remarks, page 7, lines 19-24).

This argument is also not clear since this is not being clearly claimed in claim 1. The claim 1 does not disclose the limitation "automatic parameter settings by the system" or **how** the system sets the parameter values for performing the image-processing task. There is clear distinction between the limitation " program being adapted to form a at least one query message **comprising** a code of a desired image-processing task and parameter values needed for performing the image-processing task" recited in claim 1 from the applicant's arguments "automatic parameter settings by the system". The Matsumoto reference discloses the query message (control information) is sent automatically when the sensor 17 detects abnormality in the condition of the picture object (See Col. 2, lines 14-21 and Col. 4, lines 8-20).

The applicant argues that the present invention, neither resolution nor frame rate is changed, and clear differences between the cited patent and the present invention (See Applicant's Remarks, page 8, line 3 through page 9, line 20).

The language in claim 1 is written broadly enough to allow the examiner to interpret it as claiming that the task for encoding image, such as changing resolution or frame rate that can be considered as "imaging-processing task" recited in claim 1. The claim is currently written broadly enough to allow such an interpretation.

For claims 2-3, the applicant argues that Matsumoto is silent regarding the sending of any query message, nevertheless a plurality of codes and/or parameters in a single query (See Applicant's Remarks, page 9, lines 21-30).

The examiner disagrees. The Matsumoto reference discloses the query message (control information) includes several codes of the image-processing tasks with their parameter values (e.g., the resolution % and the number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 30-35).

For claim 6, the applicant argues that the Matsumoto's the operator cannot have any detailed information about the picture or a select area of the picture, and in addition the central monitoring unit lacks a program that, when running, could send any query messages (See Applicant's Remarks, page 10, lines 1-7).

The examiner disagrees. The Matsumoto reference discloses sensor (17) watches out for abnormalities in the picture (monitoring image) of the object output from TV camera 11 (See Col. 4, lines 8-11). The "abnormalities" is considered as the detailed information about the picture of object. The query message (control information) is formed into which the code identifying the task and the related parametric values are placed (e.g., the resolution % and the number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 30-35).

For claim 7, the applicant argues that the Matsumoto reference does not disclose changing information to be received from the picture (See Applicant's Remarks, page 10, lines 9-20).

The examiner disagrees. The Matsumoto reference discloses changing the resolution of image and number of frames of the pictures are considered as changing information to be received from the pictures.

For claim 8, the applicant argues that the claim 8 clearly demands "**automatic** changes initiated by the programmable logic controller, and a corresponding capacity of the camera to identify the code and act thereupon" (See Applicant's Remarks, page 10, lines 21-24).

The examiner disagrees. This argument is not clear since this is not being clearly claimed in claim 8.

For claim 10, the applicant argues that Matsumoto does not claim nor hints about the use of a field bus, but merely discloses a communication link (See Applicant's Remarks, page 10, lines 25-31).

The examiner disagrees. The claim 10 does not specifically define what typical field bus used for data communication. The claim 10 only requires the filed bus is used for transmitting data. For this reason, the Matsumoto's communication link is considered as "field bus" recited in claim 10.

For claims 11 and 12, the applicant argues that Matsumoto's monitoring terminal unit fails to retrieve desired information from the picture, or an adaptation program responsive to codes corresponding to image processing tasks to be performed as claimed (See Applicant's Remarks, page 11, lines 1-18).

The examiner disagrees. The Matsumoto reference discloses sensor (17) watches out for abnormalities in the picture (monitoring image) of the object output from TV camera 11 (See Col. 4, lines 8-11). The "abnormalities" information is considered as the desired information about the picture of object. The query message (control information) is formed into which the code identifying the task and the related parametric values are placed (e.g., the resolution % and the number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 30-35); and the adaptation program (encoding control means 133 and communication control 16) responsive to codes (control information) corresponding to image processing tasks to be performed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. U.S. Patent 6,172,605.

Referring to claim 1, the Matsumoto reference discloses in Figures 1 and 6, a process control system comprising: programmable logic controller (monitoring central unit 20 including a communication control 21 is considered as programmable logic controller which having various control functions formed or configured as either software or hardware as

shown in Figure 1, See Col. 4, lines 50-59) including a program for controlling operation of a process (e.g., software for controlling various means and functions, see Col. 8, lines 63-65), said process control unit (20) being adapted to form a query message comprising a code of a desired image-processing task and parameter values needed for performing the image-processing task (e.g., instructions for the image-processing, such as changes the resolution of image, number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 16-30), a data-transfer link (communication line 30) for conveying the query message and a reply message (e.g. Figure 1 shows the communication line is transfer message in two directions), a smart camera (TV camera 11 of the monitoring terminal unit 10), image-processing software (encoding control means 133) for processing a picture of an object (monitoring object) taken by the video camera, in accordance with the query message (e.g., instructions for changing the resolution of image, see, Col. 8, lines 27-29), an adaptation program (data communication control 16) coupled to the image-processing software (133) and the data-transfer link (30), the adaptation program (16) further adapted to extract the code and the parameter values from the query message received from the data-transfer link, and to transform the code and the parameter values to a form suitable for the image-processing software so that the image-processing software is able to carry out the desired image-processing task (See Col. 8, lines 39-49); the adaptation program further adapted to receive the results of the image processing task from the image-processing software and send the results in the reply message via the data transfer link to the process control unit (the adaptation program of communication control 16 reply a real time image data as the results of the image processing task to the process control unit 20 according to the requirements of query message, see Col. 5, lines 20-25 and Col. 7, lines 11-26).

Referring to claim 2, the Matsumoto reference discloses wherein one query message includes several codes of the image-processing tasks with their parameter values (e.g., the resolution % and the number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 30-35).

Referring to claim 3, the Matsumoto reference discloses wherein the adaptation program (16) contains several codes (e.g., instructions) of the image-processing tasks, wherein in response to the codes and the attached parameter values the image-processing program (133) is able to carry out the corresponding number of image-processing tasks (See Col. 8, lines 44-49).

Referring to claim 6, The Matsumoto reference discloses sensor (17) watches out for abnormalities in the picture (monitoring image) of the object output from TV camera 11 (See Col. 4, lines 8-11). The "abnormalities" is considered as the detailed information about the picture of object. The query message (control information) is formed into which the code identifying the task and the related parametric values are placed (e.g., the resolution % and the number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 30-35).

Referring to claim 7, the Matsumoto reference discloses wherein by changing information to be received from a picture, desired modifications are made only in the program of the programmable logic controller (See Col. 8, lines 28-30).

Referring to claim 8, the Matsumoto reference discloses wherein any commands concerning image-processing may be included in the program (instruction) of the programmable logic controller (20), provided that the adaptation program (includes the codes identifying the tasks (see Col. 8, lines 16-30).

Referring to claim 10, the Matsumoto reference discloses wherein the data transfer link is a field bus (communication line 30).

Referring to claims 11-12, the Matsumoto reference discloses all subject matter as discussed with respected same comments to claim 1, and the Matsumoto reference discloses sensor (17) watches out for abnormalities in the picture (monitoring image) of the object output from TV camera 11 (See Col. 4, lines 8-11). The "abnormalities" information is considered as the desired information about the picture of object. The query message (control information) is formed into which the code identifying the task and the related parametric values are placed (e.g., the resolution % and the number of frames, see Col. 8, lines 30-35); and the adaptation program (encoding control means 133 and communication control 16) responsive to codes (control information) corresponding to image processing tasks to be performed; and in order to establishing communication and exchange information between monitor terminal unit (10) and monitoring central unit (20) via the communication line (data transfer line 30), a pre-defined protocol are used inherently.

Referring to claims 13-15, the Matsumoto reference discloses all subject matter as discussed with respected same comments to claims 1-3.

Referring to claims 16-23, the Matsumoto reference discloses all subject matter as discussed with respected same comments to claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10.

Conclusion

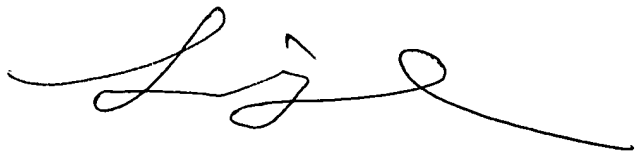
5. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lin Ye whose telephone number is (571) 272-7372. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Lin Ye
Examiner
Art Unit 2615

January 11, 2006